

## Charmides Son of Glaukon

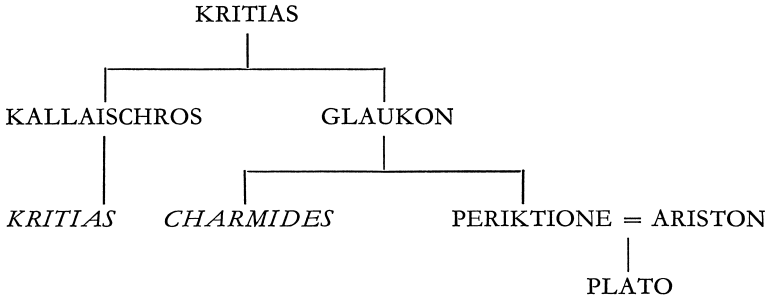
I am prompted by W.E. Thompson's article, 'Attic Kinship Terminology'<sup>1)</sup>, to set straight once and for all the family relationship between Charmides son of Glaukon and Kritias son of Kallaischros, a relationship which, as will become evident below, is misstated in two recent publications of importance.

First let us consider the evidence of Plato *Charmides*. At 154a where Kritias son of Kallaischros is speaking to Sokrates, he refers to *Χαμίδην*

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1) *JHS* xci (1971) 110-113.

τὸν τοῦ Γλαύκωνος τοῦ ἡμετέρου θείου υἱόν, ἐμὸν δὲ ἀνεψιόν. And at 155 a Sokrates suggests to Kritias that it is quite in order to talk with Charmides ἐναντίον γε σοῦ, ἐπιτρόπου τε ἅμα καὶ ἀνεψιοῦ ὄντος. The relationship is thus quite clear: Charmides is the cousin (and ward) of Kritias, their fathers Glaukon and Kallaischros being brothers<sup>2)</sup>. With the addition of Plato's branch the relevant section of the tree is as follows:



Yet in Douglas Macdowell's commentary on Andocides *de Mysterioris* § 16<sup>3)</sup> we read in a note on *Χαγυίδου*: 'presumably the son of Aristoteles, And.'s cousin... But Charmides son of Glaukon, *uncle of Kritias and Plato*, is also possible' (my italics). This may be a mere *lapsus stili*<sup>4)</sup> for 'Charmides son of Glaukon, *cousin of Kritias and uncle of Plato*, but the equally misleading entry in OCD<sup>2</sup> s.v. *Charmides*, 'an Athenian, of noble family, *nephew* (my italics) and ward of Critias, uncle of Plato, and member of the Socratic circle'<sup>5)</sup>, leads me to believe that the confusion may be traced back to the interpretation of ἀνεψιός in the *Charmides* passages quoted above.

For Miss Miller<sup>6)</sup> had led us to believe that in Attic prose ἀνεψιός/ά could mean 'nephew/niece', as well as 'cousin', an interpretation now firmly rejected by Thompson. It is not difficult to see how 'Charmides ἀνεψιός of Kritias and uncle of Plato' (interpreted as 'Charmides *nephew* of Kritias and uncle of Plato') could become 'Charmides uncle of Kritias and Plato'. I suspect that this is relevant to the *ratio corruptelae* in Macdowell's note.

2) See *PW* iii. 2174 s.v. *Charmides* (2); *ibid.*, xi. 1901 ff. s.v. *Kritias* (5); Kirchner *Prosopographia Attica* 8792 and 15512; also stemma facing p. 206.

3) Clarendon Press (1962), p. 76.

4) But one not detected by any of the reviewers, as far as I have seen, although K. J. Dover in Gomme, Andrewes and Dover, *A Historical Commentary on Thucydides*, Clarendon Press (1970), vol. iv, p. 283, is in no doubt about the relationship: 'Charmides, if he is not the same man as Charmides the son of Aristoteles, could be the son of Glaukon, cousin of Kritias and uncle of Plato'.

5) This entry merely repeats the entry of the original edition, the only difference being the omission of the Pauly reference.

6) *JHS* lxxiii (1953) 46.

Kritias was old enough to become Charmides' guardian (*ἐπίτροπος*) on the death of the latter's father Glaukon. Nevertheless, the affinity between the two was that of first cousins on the father's side. *Caveat lector!*

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